

tournament, following this great run with 32 and 32. Mr. Gardner, however, was in war paint, and with runs of 10, 26, 56, 13 and 11, won by a score of 400 to 251 for his opponent. It was a remarkable game on the part of Dr. Mial, who has no reason to feel dissatisfied at his defeat. Winner's average under 12; loser's not eight.

The thirteenth game was between Charles F. Conklin, of Chicago, and Edward W. Gardner, of New Jersey. Mr. Conklin probably played the normal strength of his game, while Mr. Gardner could not get started until it was too late, and then Conklin was practically the victor, as he was at the close. The score was 400 to 235 for Gardner. High runs, 43, 34 and 34 for Conklin, and 25, 47 and 63 for Gardner. Winner's average under 12. Loser's not eight. It will be seen by the very small runs made by Mr. Conklin that he played a very steady game. The result of this contest tied Conklin and Ferdinand Poggenburg for the first honors of the tournament. In other words, for the championship.

The fourteenth, and last, game of the tournament proper was between Albert Poensgen, of Munich, Germany, and Dr. Mial, of Morristown, N. J. The German expert was in fine form and had but little difficulty in defeating his opponent. With runs of 30, 11, 11, 39, 48, 78, 36, 20, 14, 13, 15 and 29, the score was 400 to 245 for Dr. Mial. The latter's best runs were 18, 19 and 49. Winner's average under 13. Loser's not eight. The result of this contest tied the German expert and Edward W. Gardner for third place.

The contest to decide the championship was between Charles F. Conklin, of Chicago, and Mr. Poggenburg, of New York. The playing on the part of the latter was much below his average work, as his best runs were but 27, 38 and 43, with an average of under eight. Mr. Conklin played a steady game from the outset, making runs of 29, 21, 22, 30, 36, 30, 33, 74, 18 and 13. His average was under 11. Score, 400 to 294 for Mr. Poggenburg.

The contest to decide the third prize was between Edw. W. Gardner and Albert Poensgen, the German expert. The game lasted nearly five hours. It was won by Mr. Gardner by a score of 400 to 376. High runs, 38, 50 and 68 for Gardner; 44, 50 and 52 for Poensgen. Winner's average not 10. Loser's under 10.

While there may have been better billiards played in some of the great amateur tournaments of the past in this country, it is very much to be doubted if any amateur tournament of the past attracted more attention, or created more interest in the billiard world of this country, than that which was played at the Liederkrantz Club, New York, during February. The playing was not of the pyrotechnic or sensational character or order at any time, with the exception of one run of 105 made by Mr. Ferdinand Poggenburg. In this respect the tournament was probably disappointing, but steady playing as a rule was the order and not the exception, which is probably more acceptable to the general public in tournaments or even match games.

The general playing of Mr. Poggenburg, as a rule, was, I am inclined to think, a disappointment, although he captured most of the prizes, with the exception of the championship. Probably the disappointment is the result of not having included the first prize. Mr. Gardner's playing, fine as it was at times, was also a disappointment to the public; as was the work of Dr. Mial, who is generally conceded to be one of the best balk line amateur players in the country, but who in this tournament probably disappointed himself as much as he did the public, artistic as his work was when he was capable of doing himself justice.

The German expert, Albert Poensgen, of Munich, is undoubtedly a great master of billiards, although he did not always do masterly work in the tournament. Allowance should be made for the fact, however, that he was in a strange country, surrounded by practically strangers, no matter how great his hospitality was in his reception and it was undoubtedly such if not more, while it is more than probable that the table was less familiar to him than to the other experts, who have always practically played on the same make of table. Had Mr. Poensgen encountered the same men in his own country, there is but little doubt that his playing would have been of a much higher order of artistic work.

Probably the most remarkable surprise of the tournament was the fine work done by Joseph Mayer, of Philadelphia, considering the fact that he did not win a prize. His grand average was ten, which would be considered masterly playing for short top professional masters. His nerve and up-hill playing were such as to warrant the hope that in time he will be one of the foremost amateurs of this country.

A. C. Conklin, of Chicago, who won the championship, is more than entitled to his honors and distinction. The East will more than congratulate Chicago in having so masterly an expert, while the entire billiard world of this country will feel flattered and honored by the fact that it is possible for six amateur experts to give the public such masterly contests at billiards.



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